

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NATOSHA DUNSTON,

Plaintiff,

Case No. _____

-v-

COMPLAINT

BKNY1 INC. and
132 CAPULET HOLDINGS, LLC,

Defendants.
_____X

Plaintiff, Natosha Dunston, by her undersigned counsel, hereby files this Complaint and
sues, Bkny1 Inc., and 132 Capulet Holdings, LLC, for injunctive relief pursuant to the
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181, et seq., (hereinafter the “A.D.A”) and the
ADA’s Accessibility Guidelines, 28 C.F.R. Part 36 (hereinafter the “ADAAG”).

JURISDICTION

1. This Court has original jurisdiction over the action pursuant to 28 U.S.C., §§1331
and 1343 for Plaintiff’s claims arising under 42 U.S.C. § 12181. et seq., based upon
Defendant’s violations of Title III of the ADA (see also, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202).

2. Plaintiff, Natosha Dunston, currently resides in Brooklyn, New York, and is *sui*
juris. She is a qualified individual with disabilities under the ADA law. Natosha’s left leg was
amputated due to the excessive blood clotting in her legs following an adverse reaction to
medications administered during a surgical procedure in September of 2015. She has visited the
property, which forms the basis of this lawsuit and plan to return to the property to avail herself
of the goods and services offered to the public at the property, and to determine whether the
property has been made ADA compliant. Her access to the facility and/or full and equal
enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and/or accommodations

offered therein was denied and/or limited because of these disabilities, and will be denied and/or limited in the future unless and until Defendants are compelled to remove the physical barriers to access and ADA violations which exist at the facility, including but not limited, to those set forth in the Complaint.

3. Defendant, 132 Capulet Holdings, LLC, is a limited liability company that transacts business in the State of New York and within this judicial district. Defendant is the owner, of the real property, which is the subject of this action located on or about at 132 Montague St, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (hereinafter the “Facility”).

4. Defendant, Bkny1 Inc., is a domestic corporation that transacts business in the State of New York and within this judicial district. Defendant is the operator and lessee of the premises known as Caffè Buon Gusto, located on or about at 132 Montague St, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (hereinafter the “Facility”).

5. The Defendants’ Facility is a public accommodation and service establishment, and although required by law to do so, it is not in compliance with the ADA and ADAAG.

6. In this instance, Plaintiff visited the Facility and encountered barriers to access at the Facility, engaged barriers, suffered legal harm and injury, and will continue to suffer legal harm and injury as a result of the illegal barriers to access as set forth herein.

7. Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer direct and indirect injury as a result of the ADA violations that exist at the Facility.

8. All events giving rise to this lawsuit occurred in the State of New York. Venue is proper in this Court as the premises are located in the Eastern District.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS AND CLAIM

9. Plaintiff has attempted to access the facility, but could not do so without severe hardship, because of her disabilities, and the physical barriers to access and ADA violations that exist at the Facility, which restrict and/or limit her access to the goods and services offered at the Facility. The ADA violations are more specifically set forth in this Complaint.

10. Plaintiff intends to visit the Facility again in the near future in order to utilize all of the goods and services offered therein but will be unable to do so because of the physical barriers to access, dangerous conditions and ADA violations that exist at the facility that restrict and/or limit her access to the facility, including those barriers conditions and ADA violations more specifically set forth in this Complaint.

11. Defendants have discriminated against Plaintiff and others with disabilities by denying access to, and full and equal enjoyment of the goods and services of the facility, as prohibited by 42 U.S.C., § 12182, *et.seq.*, and by failing to remove architectural barriers as required by 42 U.S.C., § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv), and will continue to discriminate against Plaintiff and others with disabilities unless and until Defendants are compelled to remove all physical barriers that exist at the facility, including those specifically set forth herein, and make the facility accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, including Plaintiff.

12. Defendants have discriminated against Plaintiff by failing to comply with the above requirements. A specific, although not exclusive, list of unlawful physical barriers, dangerous conditions and ADA violations, which preclude and/or limit Plaintiff's ability to access the Facility and full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services offered at the Facility include:

- I. INACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE. IACCESSIBLE TRAVEL PATH LEADING TO ENTRANCE. ACCESSIBLE ROUTE TO ESTABLISHMENT NOT PROVIDED AS REQUIRED. ACCESSIBLE MEANS OF EGRESS NOT PROVIDED AS REQUIRED. EXISTING STEPS AT TRAVEL PATH LEADING TO ENTRANCE ACT AS A

BARRIER TO ACCESSIBILITY. REQUIRED RAMP NOT PROVIDED FOR STEPS AT TRAVEL PATH LEADING TO ENTRANCE.

- a. ADAAG 206 Accessible Routes ADAAG 206.1 General. Accessible routes shall be provided in accordance with 206 and shall comply with Chapter 4. ADAAG 206.2 Where Required. Accessible routes shall be provided where required by 206.2. ADAAG 206.2.1 Site Arrival Points. At least one accessible route shall be provided within the site from accessible parking spaces and accessible passenger loading zones; public streets and sidewalks; and public transportation stops to the accessible building or facility entrance they serve. ADAAG 206.4 Entrances. Entrances shall be provided in accordance with 206.4. Entrance doors, doorways, and gates shall comply with 404 and shall be on an accessible route complying with 402. ADAAG 206.4.1 Public Entrances. In addition to entrances required by 206.4.2 through 206.4.9, at least 60 percent of all public entrances shall comply with 404. ADAAG 207 Accessible Means of Egress ADAAG 207.1 General. Means of egress shall comply with section 1003.2.13 of the International Building Code (2000 edition and 2001 Supplement) or section 1007 of the International Building Code (2003 edition) (incorporated by reference, "Referenced Standards" in Chapter 1). ADAAG 303.4 Ramps. Changes in level greater than ½ inch high shall be ramped, and shall comply with 405 or 406.

II. NON-COMPLIANT EXISTING HANDRAILS AT STEPS LEADING TO ENTRANCE. HANDRAIL EXTENSIONS NOT PROVIDED AS REQUIRED AT STEPS LEADING TO ENTRANCE.

- a. ADAAG 505.10 Handrail Extensions. Handrail gripping surfaces shall extend beyond and in the same direction of stair flights and ramp runs in accordance with 505.10. ADAAG 505.10.2 Top Extension at Stairs. At the top of a stair flight, handrails shall extend horizontally above the landing for 12 inches (305 mm) minimum beginning directly above the first riser nosing. Extensions shall return to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent stair flight. ADAAG 505.10.3 Bottom Extension at Stairs. At the bottom of a stair flight, handrails shall extend at the slope of the stair flight for a horizontal distance at least equal to one tread depth beyond the last riser nosing. Extension shall return to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent stair flight.

III. INACCESSIBLE TRAVEL PATH TO EXTERIOR DINING AREA. ACCESSIBLE ROUTE TO EXTERIOR DINING AREA NOT PROVIDED AS REQUIRED. EXISTING STEPS AT TRAVEL PATH LEADING TO EXTERIOR DINING AREA ACT AS A BARRIER TO ACCESSIBILITY.

- a. ADAAG 206.2.5 Restaurants and Cafeterias. In restaurants and cafeterias, an accessible route shall be provided to all dining areas, including raised or sunken dining areas, and outdoor dining areas. ADAAG 206 Accessible Routes ADAAG

- 206.1 General. Accessible routes shall be provided in accordance with 206 and shall comply with Chapter 4. ADAAG 303.4 Ramps. Changes in level greater than ½ inch high shall be ramped, and shall comply with 405 or 406.
- IV. REQUIRED MINIMUM CLEAR WIDTH NOT PROVIDED AT TRAVEL PATH THRU DINING TABLES LOCATED AT EXTERIOR DINING AREA..
- a. ADAAG 402 Accessible Routes ADAAG 402.1 General. Accessible routes shall comply with 402. ADAAG 402.2 Components. Accessible routes shall consist of one or more of the following components: walking surfaces with a running slope not steeper than 1:20, doorways, ramps, curb ramps excluding the flared sides, elevators, and platform lifts. All components of an accessible route shall comply with the applicable requirements of Chapter 4. ADAAG 403 Walking Surfaces ADAAG 403.1 General. Walking surfaces that are a part of an accessible route shall comply with 403. ADAAG 403.5.1 Clear Width. Except as provided in 403.5.2 and 403.5.3, the clear width of walking surfaces shall be 36 inches (915 mm) minimum.
- V. REQUIRED MINIMUM KNEE AND TOE CLEARANCE NOT PROVIDED AT EXTERIOR DINING TABLES. A MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF EXISTING EXTERIOR DINING TABLES REQUIRED TO BE ACCESSIBLE NOT PROVIDED.
- a. ADAAG 226 Dining Surfaces and Work Surfaces ADAAG 226.1 General. Where dining surfaces are provided for the consumption of food or drink, at least 5 percent of the seating spaces and standing spaces at the dining surfaces shall comply with 902. ADAAG 902 Dining Surfaces and Work Surfaces ADAAG 902.1 General. Dining surfaces and work surfaces shall comply with 902.2 and 902.3. ADAAG 902.2 Clear Floor or Ground Space. A clear floor space complying with 305 positioned for a forward approach shall be provided. Knee and toe clearance complying with 306 shall be provided. ADAAG 306.2 Toe Clearance. ADAAG 306.2.3 Minimum Required Depth. Where toe clearance is required at an element as part of a clear floor space, the toe clearance shall extend 17 inches (430 mm) minimum under the element. ADAAG 306.2.5 Width. Toe clearance shall be 30 inches (760 mm) wide minimum. ADAAG 306.3 Knee Clearance. ADAAG 306.3.3 Minimum Required Depth. Where knee clearance is required under an element as part of a clear floor space, the knee clearance shall be 11 inches deep minimum at 9 inches above the ground, and 8 inches deep minimum at 27 inches (685 mm) above the finish floor or ground. ADAAG 306.3.5 Width. Knee clearance shall be 30 inches (760 mm) wide minimum.
- VI. REQUIRED MINIMUM SPACE NOT PROVIDED IN VESTIBULE BETWEEN TWO DOORS IN SERIES AT ENTRANCE.
- a. ADAAG 404.2.6 Doors in Series and Gates in Series. The distance between two hinged or pivoted doors in series and gates in series shall be 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum plus the width of doors or gates swinging into the space.

- VII. REQUIRED MINIMUM MANEUVERING CLEARANCE NOT PROVIDED AT INTERIOR SIDE OF THE FIRST OF TWO DOORS IN SERIES AT ENTRANCE.
 - a. ADAAG 404.2.4 Maneuvering Clearances. Minimum maneuvering clearances at doors and gates shall comply with 404.2.4. Maneuvering clearances shall extend the full width of the doorway and the required latch side or hinge side clearance.
- VIII. REQUIRED MINIMUM MANEUVERING CLEARANCE NOT PROVIDED AT EXTERIOR SIDE OF THE SECOND OF TWO DOORS IN SERIES AT ENTRANCE.
 - a. ADAAG 404.2.4 Maneuvering Clearances. Minimum maneuvering clearances at doors and gates shall comply with 404.2.4. Maneuvering clearances shall extend the full width of the doorway and the required latch side or hinge side clearance.
- IX. NON-COMPLIANT DOOR KNOB AT THE SECOND OF TWO DOORS IN SERIES AT ENTRANCE REQUIRES TWISTING OF THE WRIST.
 - a. ADAAG 404.2.7 Door and Gate Hardware. Handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operable parts on doors and gates shall comply with 309.4 ADAAG 309.4 Operation. Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds maximum.
- X. INACCESSIBLE DINING TABLES LOCATED AT INTERIOR DINING AREA. REQUIRED MINIMUM KNEE AND TOE CLEARANCE NOT PROVIDED AT INTERIOR DINING TABLES. A MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF EXISTING INTERIOR DINING TABLES REQUIRED TO BE ACCESSIBLE NOT PROVIDED.
 - a. ADAAG 226 Dining Surfaces and Work Surfaces ADAAG 226.1 General. Where dining surfaces are provided for the consumption of food or drink, at least 5 percent of the seating spaces and standing spaces at the dining surfaces shall comply with 902. ADAAG 902 Dining Surfaces and Work Surfaces ADAAG 902.1 General. Dining surfaces and work surfaces shall comply with 902.2 and 902.3. ADAAG 902.2 Clear Floor or Ground Space. A clear floor space complying with 305 positioned for a forward approach shall be provided. Knee and toe clearance complying with 306 shall be provided. ADAAG 306.2 Toe Clearance. ADAAG 306.2.3 Minimum Required Depth. Where toe clearance is required at an element as part of a clear floor space, the toe clearance shall extend 17 inches (430 mm) minimum under the element. ADAAG 306.2.5 Width. Toe clearance shall be 30 inches (760 mm) wide minimum. ADAAG 306.3 Knee Clearance. ADAAG 306.3.3 Minimum Required Depth. Where knee clearance is required under an element as part of a clear floor space, the knee clearance shall be 11 inches deep minimum at 9 inches above the ground, and 8 inches deep minimum at 27 inches (685 mm) above the finish floor or ground. ADAAG 306.3.5 Width. Knee clearance shall be 30 inches (760 mm) wide minimum.

- XI. THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS IS INACCESSIBLE. REQUIRED MINIMUM CLEAR WIDTH NOT PROVIDED AT DOOR OF THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS.
 - a. ADAAG 404.2.3 Clear Width. Door openings shall provide a clear width of 32 inches (815 mm) minimum. Clear openings of doorways with swinging doors shall be measured between the face of the door and the stop, with the door open 90 degrees.
- XII. REQUIRED MINIMUM MANEUVERING CLEARANCE NOT PROVIDED AT DOOR OF THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS.
 - a. ADAAG 404.2.4 Maneuvering Clearances. Minimum maneuvering clearances at doors and gates shall comply with 404.2.4. Maneuvering clearances shall extend the full width of the doorway and the required latch side or hinge side clearance.
- XIII. NON-COMPLIANT DOOR KNOB AT DOOR OF THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS REQUIRES TWISTING OF THE WRIST.
 - a. ADAAG 404.2.7 Door and Gate Hardware. Handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operable parts on doors and gates shall comply with 309.4 ADAAG 309.4 Operation. Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds maximum.
- XIV. NON-COMPLIANT LOCK AT DOOR OF THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS REQUIRES TWISTING OF THE WRIST.
 - a. ADAAG 404.2.7 Door and Gate Hardware. Handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operable parts on doors and gates shall comply with 309.4 ADAAG 309.4 Operation. Operable parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds maximum.
- XV. REQUIRED MINIMUM TURNING SPACE NOT PROVIDED IN THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS.
 - a. ADAAG 603 Toilet and Bathing Rooms ADAAG 603.1 General. Toilet and bathing rooms shall comply with 603. ADAAG 603.2 Clearances. Clearances shall comply with 603.2. ADAAG 603.2.1 Turning Space. Turning space complying with 304 shall be provided within the room. ADAAG 304.3.1 Circular Space. The turning space shall be a space of 60 inches (1525 mm) diameter minimum. The space shall be permitted to include knee and toe clearance complying with 306
- XVI. INACCESSIBLE LAVATORY IN THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS. REQUIRED MINIMUM CLEAR FLOOR SPACE NOT PROVIDED AT LAVATORY IN THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS.
 - a. ADAAG 606 Lavatories and Sinks ADAAG 606.2 Clear Floor Space. A clear floor space complying with 305, positioned for a forward approach, and knee and toe clearance complying with 306 shall be provided. ADAAG 305.3 Size. The clear floor

or ground space shall be 30 inches (760 mm) minimum by 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum.

XVII. INSULATION OF PIPES AND WATER LINES UNDER THE LAVATORY IN THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS NOT PROVIDED AS REQUIRED.

- a. ADAAG 606.5 Exposed Pipes and Surfaces. Water supply and drain pipes under lavatories and sinks shall be insulated or otherwise configured to protect against contact. There shall be no sharp or abrasive surfaces under lavatories and sinks.

XVIII. INACCESSIBLE PAPER TOWEL DISPENSER IN THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS. NON COMPLIANT HEIGHT OF PAPER TOWEL DISPENSER IN THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS EXCEEDS MAXIMUM HEIGHT ALLOWANCE.

- a. ADAAG Advisory 606.1 General. If soap and towel dispensers are provided, they must be located within the reach ranges specified in 308. ADAAG 308.2 Forward Reach. ADAAG 308.2.1 Unobstructed. Where a forward reach is unobstructed, the high forward reach shall be 48 inches maximum and the low forward reach shall be 15 inches minimum above the finish floor or ground. ADAAG 308.2.2 Obstructed High Reach. Where a high forward reach is over an obstruction, the clear floor space shall extend beneath the element for a distance not less than the required reach depth over the obstruction. The high forward reach shall be 48 inches maximum where the reach depth is 20 inches maximum. Where the reach depth exceeds 20 inches, the high forward reach shall be 44 inches maximum and the reach depth shall be 25 inches maximum. ADAAG 308.3 Side Reach. ADAAG 308.3.1 Unobstructed. Where a clear floor or ground space allows a parallel approach to an element and the side reach is unobstructed, the high side reach shall be 48 inches maximum and the low side reach shall be 15 inches minimum above the finish floor or ground. ADAAG 308.3.2 Obstructed High Reach. Where a clear floor or ground space allows a parallel approach to an element and the high side reach is over an obstruction, the height of the obstruction shall be 34 inches maximum and the depth of the obstruction shall be 24 inches maximum. The high side reach shall be 48 inches maximum for a reach depth of 10 inches maximum. Where the reach depth exceeds 10 inches, the high side reach shall be 46 inches maximum for a reach depth of 24 inches maximum.

XIX. INACCESSIBLE MIRROR IN THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS. NON COMPLIANT MOUNTED HEIGHT OF MIRROR IN THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS EXCEEDS MAXIMUM HEIGHT ALLOWANCE.

- a. ADAAG 603.3 Mirrors. Mirrors located above lavatories or countertops shall be installed with the bottom edge of the reflecting surface 40 inches (1015 mm) maximum above the finish floor or ground. Mirrors not located above lavatories or countertops shall be installed with the bottom edge of the reflecting surface 35 inches (890 mm) maximum above the finish floor or ground.

- XX. INACCESSIBLE WATER CLOSET IN THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS. REQUIRED MINIMUM CLEARANCE NOT PROVIDED AT WATER CLOSET IN THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS.
- a. ADAAG 604 Water Closets and Toilet Compartments ADAAG 604.3 Clearance. Clearances around water closets and in toilet compartments shall comply with 604.3. ADAAG 604.3.1 Size. Clearance around a water closet shall be 60 inches (1525 mm) minimum measured perpendicular from the side wall and 56 inches (1420 mm) minimum measured perpendicular from the rear wall.
- XXI. REQUIRED GRAB BARS NOT PROVIDED ON REAR AND SIDE WALLS OF WATER CLOSET IN THE FIRST OF TWO RESTROOMS.
- a. ADAAG 604.5 Grab Bars. Grab bars for water closets shall comply with 609. Grab bars shall be provided on the side wall closest to the water closet and on the rear wall.
- XXII. THE SECOND OF TWO RESTROOMS IS INACCESSIBLE. REQUIRED MINIMUM CLEAR WIDTH NOT PROVIDED AT DOOR OF THE SECOND OF TWO RESTROOMS.
- a. ADAAG 404.2.3 Clear Width. Door openings shall provide a clear width of 32 inches (815 mm) minimum. Clear openings of doorways with swinging doors shall be measured between the face of the door and the stop, with the door open 90 degrees.
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- a. ADAAG 604.5 Grab Bars. Grab bars for water closets shall comply with 609. Grab bars shall be provided on the side wall closest to the water closet and on the rear wall.

13. The above listing is not to be considered all-inclusive of the barriers, which exist at the Facility. Plaintiff requires an inspection of the facility, in order to determine all of the ADA violations.

14. The removal of the physical barriers, dangerous conditions and ADA violations set forth herein is readily achievable and can be accomplished and carried out without much difficulty or expense. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(B)(2)(A)(iv); 42 U.S.C. § 12181(9); 28 C.F.R. § 36.304.

15. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law and is suffering irreparable harm, and reasonably anticipates that she will continue to suffer irreparable harm unless and until

Defendants are required to remove the physical barriers, dangerous conditions and ADA violations that exist at the facility, including those set forth herein.

16. The Plaintiff has been obligated to retain undersigned counsel for the filing and prosecution of this action. The Plaintiff is entitled to have her reasonable attorney's fees, costs and expenses paid by the Defendants, pursuant to 42 U.S.C., §§ 12205 and 12217.

17. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12188(a), this Court is provided with authority to grant injunctive relief to Plaintiff, including an order to alter the subject facility to make it readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA, and closing the subject facility until the requisite modifications are completed.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court issue a permanent injunction enjoining Defendants from continuing is discriminatory practices, ordering Defendants to remove the physical barriers to access and alter the subject facility to make it readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA, closing the subject facility until the barriers are removed and requisite alterations are completed, and awarding Plaintiff her reasonable attorney's fees, expert fees, costs and litigation expenses incurred in this action.

Respectfully submitted,
s/Maria Costanza Barducci
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